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South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities

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August 31, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455 - 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Ultra-Wideband - ET Docket 98 - 153

Dear Ms. Salas:

As a statewide organization, which advocates for the full inclusion of all people with all types of disabilities, we recognize the difference technology can make in the life of a person with a disability. The ever-expanding world of technology has opened and continues to open many doors that lead to people with disabilities living independently and returning to the world of work. Technological advances have also resulted in the emergence of life-monitoring and life-saving devices that, in a rural state such as ours, can mean the difference between life and death for all of us. We believe the potential applications of the use of ultra-wideband technology will open more doors to those we serve and to all community members.

South Dakota is a state of over 710,000 people living in an expansive geographic area. Often times, local public safety and emergency medical staff are called upon to respond to situations that require them to not only quickly respond to those in need, but transfer them to medical facilities some distance away. Shortening the amount of time spent in their initial response to emergencies can only serve to provide a wider window of opportunity for the transfer of injured individuals to needed medical facilities and expertise.

We believe the potential applications of the use of ultra-wideband technology will be a critical aide to these public servants and the people they serve. Ultimately, we believe the emergence of such technology will serve to improve the lives of those we serve and our entire statewide community.

We ask the FCC to come to a quick and positive decision regarding ultra-wideband technology. I thank you for giving our comments your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Shelly Pfaff
Executive Director

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